

Animal Industry

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Director



The Animal Industry Division of the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food has seven main programs:

- 1) Animal Health – focused on prevention and control of animal diseases, with special attention to diseases that can be transmitted to humans.
- 2) Meat and Poultry Inspection — to assure wholesome products for consumers.
- 3) Livestock Inspection (brand registration and inspection) — to offer protection to the livestock industry through law enforcement.
- 4) Fish Health — protecting the fish health in the state and dealing with problems of fish food production and processing.
- 5) Elk Farming and Elk Hunting Parks
- 6) Bonding and licensing
- 7) Veterinary Disease Diagnostic Laboratories

Major accomplishments in these areas during the past year are as follows:

Animal Health

Disease free status was maintained in the following disease categories:

*Brucellosis *Tuberculosis *Scabies *Pseudorabies
*Salmonella pullorum *Mycoplasma gallisepticum

Disease monitoring programs that have continued from prior years include those for heartworm, equine encephalitis, equine infectious anemia, rabies, brucellosis, tuberculosis, pseudorabies, salmonella sp., mycoplasma sp., west nile virus, vesicular stomatitis, trichomoniasis, and etc.

The Division participated in a West Nile Virus Surveillance program in partnership with the Utah Department of Health, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, and the Utah Mosquito Abatement Association. The Division of Animal Industry's role was to promote and monitor surveillance for WNV in horses. The Division paid for the laboratory cost of testing 69 suspected cases and six horses were diagnosed positive for WNV. The Division also distributed an updated pamphlet alerting horse owners concerning this disease and updated our website. Funding was provided to the Utah Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory for testing of sentinel chicken flocks and other birds. Much of this was accomplished with funding from the Utah legislature and a grant from the Utah Department of Health.

The Division has actively promoted various Health Assurance Programs and has served to certify participants. Such programs as Utah Egg Quality Assurance Program, Utah Cattle Health Assurance Program, Voluntary Johnes' Disease Control Program,

Beef Quality Assurance, Trichomoniasis testing, the National Poultry Improvement Plan, and others are included in this effort. Division veterinarians met with the various livestock enterprise groups, farm organizations, veterinary associations and other groups in the state to receive input concerning their needs and to acquaint them with new programs. An annual training session for Utah Egg Quality Assurance Program participants is offered and semiannual farm visits are made by Division veterinarians to verify compliance. Nearly 16,000 ear tags were issued to veterinarians for use in the Trichomoniasis testing program. Testing identified 75 infected bulls in 12 counties in 2004. In 2003-04 more than 155 letters of notice were sent and 34 citations issued.

The Division was involved early in establishing a Johnes' Disease Advisory Committee, adopting the standards of the Voluntary Johnes' Disease Herd Status Program, and seeking funding from the legislature to establish the program in Utah. As a result of these efforts over four years ago, the state qualified for a grant of \$80,000 from USDA for funding of the program in 2003. Division veterinarians have certified 37 private veterinarians to perform Risk Assessments and developed Management Plans for participating herds. The grant funding also pays for testing in those herds and other program expenses. This is a significant benefit for Utah producers.

The Division veterinarians monitored livestock exports and imports into the state by reviewing incoming Certificates of Veterinary Inspection and issuing livestock entry permits to animals that meet Utah entry requirements. Violations of Utah import regulations were investigated, and citations were issued. Over 18,000 Certificates of Veterinary Inspection for interstate movement of animals were received from Utah veterinarians. These documents were monitored, filed, and forwarded to our Animal Health counterparts in the states of destination.

The Division is responsible for licensing hatcheries, qualified feedlot operators, and swine garbage feeders in the state. The number of hatcheries in the state continues to increase in the game bird industry. The division also administers the National Poultry Improvement Plan in the state. This is a voluntary testing program wherein a flock may be certified disease free in several important disease categories. Participants in the program enjoy significant benefits when shipping birds, eggs, and products in commerce.

The Division has maintained a cooperative agreement with FDA for the past three years to monitor 33 licensed feed manufacturers in the state for enforcement of the ban on feeding meat and bone meal to ruminants. This is an important fire-wall to prevent the spread of Bovine Spongiform Encephalitis (BSE)

in our cattle population, if the disease were to gain entry to this country. The importance of this monitoring was emphasized when a Canadian-born cow was discovered to be infected with BSE in Washington State in December, 2003. The discovery of that imported cow with BSE has prompt renewed efforts in that area as well as changes in meat inspection policy and implementation of a national animal identification program. The State of Utah has already met the goal of testing 4,600 high risk animals for BSE this year. All were negative.

Homeland Security has again been a focus of the Division in 2004. The threat of agriterrorism and the possibility of foreign animal diseases, such as BSE, END, and FMD, being introduced to the state make this a top priority. Training has been obtained for five Division veterinarians as Foreign Animal Disease Diagnosticians. They have gained practical experience in volunteering to respond to disease outbreaks such as the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak in Great Britain and the Exotic Newcastle Disease outbreak in California. The Division was successful in obtaining federal funding for developing a mobile emergency response capability. A mobile response trailer has been purchased and equipped in 2003. A mobile command center and an Air-curtain incinerator have been added this year. The Division has offered training and consultation in biosecurity measures to various groups and state agencies.

The Animal Health section has the responsibility of providing veterinary supervision and service to the livestock auction markets in Utah in furtherance of our disease control and monitoring programs. The program is administered by the division, using private veterinarians on contract with the state. More than 500 weekly livestock sales conducted by 8 licensed and bonded sale yards in the state were serviced under this program. Division veterinarians also provided oversight for veterinarians and technicians involved with brucellosis vaccinations.

Livestock Inspection

The Livestock (Brand) Inspection Bureau consists of 14 full-time special function officers and 50 part-time inspectors. Their job is to protect the Utah livestock industry from accidental straying or intentional theft of livestock. In addition to inspecting all cattle and horses at the state's eight weekly auctions, field inspections are done on all livestock prior to changing ownership, leaving the state and going to slaughter.

During 2004, a total of 575,114 individual cattle, horses and elk were inspected. Livestock worth an estimated \$1.1 million was returned to their proper owners. This was a reduction in animals inspected from the previous year due to the statewide drought. It was noted that the same number of producers were in operation, but most had reduced their herd size due to summer grazing conditions. It should also be noted that during the fall of 2004 ranchers started to hold heifers and increase their herd size.

The brand bureau presently has about 24,000 brands and earmarks on file in the "Central Brand Registry." As mandated by law, these brands must be renewed every five years to keep information current. 2005 marks the brand renewal year for Utah. Each brand owner will receive a renewal notice from the

Department and those wanting to renew the brand will receive a laminated wallet-sized proof of ownership card. The ownership card is intended for use during travel and when selling animals at auctions. In addition to this, the Brand Bureau is actively involved in tying the existing brand program to the new National Animal Identification System, where each livestock owner will be issued a premises I.D. number. This number will be added to the brand card for easy reference as the system develops.

The brand department started collecting the cattlemen's part of predator control money in 1996. During 2004, livestock inspectors collected \$114,000 in predator control money. This money, like the beef promotion money, which has been collected by the brand inspectors for many years, will simply be forwarded to the Wildlife Services Program for its use. Sheep men will continue to have their allotment collected by the wool houses and forwarded to the department.

In an effort to assist and give training to the state's port-of-entry personnel, a livestock inspector was assigned to work monthly in each port-of-entry. These inspectors are authorized and equipped to chase down those livestock transporters who ignore the signs requiring all livestock hauling vehicles to stop. This is an effort to help prevent diseased animals from entering the state and stolen animals from leaving the state.

A heightened awareness in the meat industry has also resulted in the upgrading of the Farm Custom Slaughter Program to insure the meat derived from home grown, non-inspected livestock is prepared under the best conditions possible.

The killing of "downer" non-ambulatory animals has been eliminated from this program due to the BSE positive cow found in Washington State December 23, 2003.

During the 2005 legislative session, a new position was approved. A range rider/investigator will now travel from county to county in an effort to prevent intentional and accidental taking of another's animals as they forage and are removed from open range situations.

Elk Farming and Hunting Parks

During the 1997 legislative session, the Domestic Elk Farming bill was passed allowing the farming of domestic elk on an individual's property. The brand bureau has been asked to regulate this industry. In 1999, an amendment to the original law allows the licensing of domestic elk hunting parks. Livestock inspectors are involved in the inspection of new facilities and elk as they come and go from each licensed farm or park. They help verify identification, ownership, health and genetic purity of every animal. 40 new farms and six hunting parks have been licensed with a total of 2685 elk on inventory. This is a slight reduction from the previous year. We believe this is due to the loss of the velvet antler business and the decreased value of the animals. An eight-member elk advisory council was formed to make recommendations and give direction to this industry.

Meat Inspection

The number of Utah inspected meat processing facilities throughout the state has decreased slightly this past year. We have added one new processing facility to our fully inspected state plants list, but lost two slaughter processing establishments. Our

staff is periodically asked to review and assist new establishment managers in preparation of facilities to come under state meat inspection. We work to allow these individuals the opportunity to produce meat products in a clean, well built, and sanitarily maintained facility that fits the minimal requirements established by the U.S.D.A.

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) continues to cause problems in the regulatory environment. Each establishment that slaughters or handles carcass beef had to write a plan on how they would handle specified risk materials from these carcasses. This is just one of many Federal Rules and Regulations that the small establishment owner must comply with to remain in business. The Utah Meat and Poultry Inspection Program personnel have tried to help these small business owners as much as we can to make sure they understand what it takes to remain in compliance.

The program in the past year has made an effort to reduce the amount of paper work required by the individual inspector and to simplify the paper work required by the establishment. In turn, we have stressed to the inspector that they are responsible to verify and validate that the Food Safety System in each establishment is being executed properly. To make sure these system are being designed and validate properly, federally trained state personnel are conducting Food Safety Assessments in each state establishment.

Fish Health

At the end of FY 2004, 27 commercial aquaculture facilities (13 facilities with live fish sales, ten facilities with dead fish sales, one fish processing plant, and one combined fish processing plant and dead fish sales) and 121 fee fishing facilities were registered with the UDAF, Fish Health Program. This is a 16% decrease in licensed facilities over 2003-2004 fiscal year.

There are four commercial growers actively involved in fish brokering. Twelve new applications, (eleven fee fishing sites and one aquaculture site) were filed this year. Nine aquaculture facilities were under quarantine due to whirling disease. One facility cleaned up its whirling disease problem and is cleared for live sales. Two other facilities are being tested. Six lots of 2005 sentinel trout samples were place at three aquaculture facilities, or a total of 360 rainbow trout were tested. Trout from nine fee fishing facilities were sampled for the whirling disease parasite to determine if the parasite had spread from sales of infected trout.

Six biosecurity plans were developed and signed during the fiscal year. One biosecurity plan is currently being developed this fiscal year

The number of Species Approval Requests to DWR was 18. New species approvals include tiger trout, walleye and black crappie.

Services extended to clients and the public include: approximately 67 on-site consultations and distribution of information on aquaculture and fish diseases; over 300 phone consultations with the public; on-site water quality tests conducted at 23 sites; issuing and renewing 148 CORs to aquaculture facilities, fee fishing, brokering, and fish processing plants; inspecting fish at 34 aquaculture inspections including over 3,035 fish sampled (2,2544 fish samples were tested for IHNV, 2,044 for IPNV; 2,284 for VHSV, 840 for BF, 840 for BR, 1,223 for BKD, 1,531 for

WD, 279 for LMBV 120 for CS, 249 for SVCV, and 260 OMV); issuing 36 fish health approvals (20 to in-state facilities and 16 to out-of-state facilities).

Fifty-five entry permits were issued for fifteen species of aquatic animals for a total of approximately 1,159,081 fish and 826,000 eggs imported from eleven states and one Canadian facility.

The Fish Health Program participated in continuing education lectures and presentations to enhance and promote the knowledge of fish health and aquaculture.

Aquatic nuisance species pamphlets were distributed to fish merchants throughout the state.

The number of Fish Health Policy Board meetings attended was nine. The number of nuisance species meetings attended was one. The pathogen committee meetings were held with DWR.

The program is dedicated to the continuous improvement of fish health programs, reduction of unnecessary paperwork, customer satisfaction and remaining within the budget. It is the primary aim of the Fish Health Program to prevent and control the spread of fish diseases. Specialists work overtime to complete these tasks, and this is done within current budget constraints.



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